(b) if so, the total number of industrial units of small scale sector closed during the decade; and

(c) the capital that has turned non-productive due to so declared sick industrial units?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (DR. C.P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Sickness is one of the main factors leading to closure of small scale industrial units. The information on closed SSI units is not maintained centrally. However, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) compiles data on sick SSI units financed by the scheduled commercial banks. As per the latest information available with the RBI, the number of sick SSI units in the country as at the end of March, 2002 was 1,77,336 and the amount outstanding against these units was Rs. 4818.92 crores.

Indo-Israel Joint Satellite

2468. SHRI RUMANDLA RAAMACHANDRAYYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Israel are to launch a joint satellite;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that Israel shares expertise with other countries like US, France, Netherlands etc. also; and

(d) if so, the action taken to ensure that double cross spying does not take place in such collaboration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is not known to this Department whether Israel shares expertise with other countries like United States, France, Netherlands, etc.

(d) Does not arise.